

SOUTHBANK CENTRE

Press Release

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2019/20 Classical Season Event Listings [HERE](#)

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Southbank Centre announces 2019/20 Classical Season

Southbank Centre is proud to announce its 2019/20 season of concerts across its three world renowned venues. With over 230 concerts, the season reflects Southbank Centre's commitment to classical music and to celebrating its position as one of the UK's most important venues for the arts.

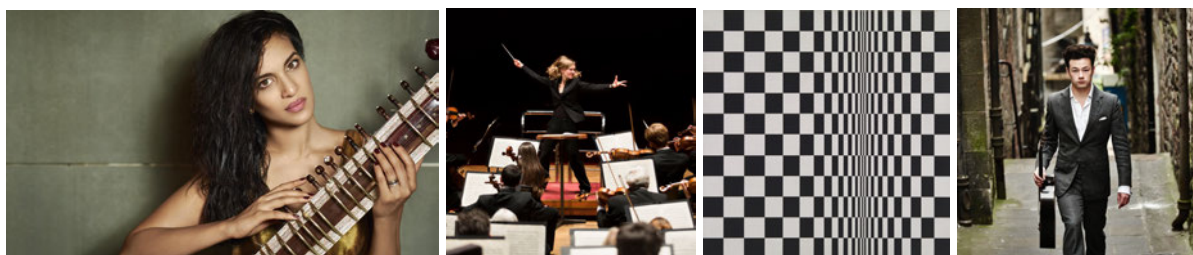


Photo credits: **Anoushka Shankar**, credit Anushka Menon; **Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla** photo Benjamin Eloveaga; **Bridget Riley** *Movement in Squares, 1961 Synthetic emulsion on board 123.2 x 121.2 cm* © Bridget Riley 2018. All rights reserved. (Part of Hayward Gallery's *Bridget Riley* exhibition 23 October 2019 - 26 January 2020); **Sean Shibe** photo Kaupo Kikkas.

Highlights include:

- **Major series in 2020 celebrating 250 years since the birth of Beethoven**
- **The return of Steve Reich's *Drumming* to the Hayward Gallery, the site of its European premiere in 1972, headlines a season of music inspired by visual art and the Hayward Gallery's major Bridget Riley retrospective**
- **Concerts and exhibition celebrating Ravi Shankar centenary**
- **Anoushka Shankar announced as Southbank Centre Associate Artist**
- **Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla conducts Varèse's complete works**
- **International Orchestras include: San Francisco Symphony Orchestra double-bill; Bergen Philharmonic and Choir and an all-star cast in Britten's *Peter Grimes*; Mitsuko Uchida and the Mahler Chamber Orchestra**
- **Over 30 new commissions and premieres and the launch of the first *BBC Radio 3 Unclassified Live* as part of a new 'Contemporary Edit'**
- **Southbank Centre to offer a free classical night out with the best in the business to audiences new to classical music. Marin Alsop, Nicola Benedetti, Colin Currie, Stephen Hough, Nico Muhly and Mark-Anthony Turnage amongst**

leading musicians and composers who will accompany classical music newcomers to concerts as part of innovative new *Encounters* scheme

- **50,000 seats available for £15 or under, including many free events**

Southbank Centre today announces its 2019/20 Classical Music Season, together with its four Resident Orchestras, the **London Philharmonic Orchestra, Philharmonia Orchestra, London Sinfonietta** and the **Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment**, and four Associate Orchestras, **Aurora Orchestra, BBC Concert Orchestra, Chineke! Orchestra** and the **National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain**.

A central commitment to audiences, including those new to classical music, lies at the heart of the season which features **230+ classical concerts and events** in the Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall and Purcell Room, as well as the Hayward Gallery and open foyers.

ARTISTS

The first month alone sets the tone for a season stamped with ambition, imagination and the highest quality music-making, with audiences able to hear many of classical music's most electrifying musicians. Artists include **Vladimir Jurowski, Esa-Pekka Salonen, Edward Gardner, Elim Chan, Susanna Mälkki, Masaaki Suzuki, Nicola Benedetti, Jess Gillam, Jörg Widmann, Vikingur Olafsson, Alice Sara Ott, Pekka Kuusisto, Patricia Kopatchinskaja, Barbara Hannigan, Andreas Scholl**, Southbank Centre Artist-in-Residence **Pierre-Laurent Aimard, Julia Fischer** and **Sheku Kanneh-Mason**, and the outstanding performers keep coming throughout the season: Southbank Centre Associate Artists **Marin Alsop** and **Colin Currie, Thomas Adès, Sarah Connolly, Diana Damrau, Iestyn Davies, James Ehnes, Mark Elder, Edward Gardner, Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla, Benjamin Grosvenor, Stephen Hough, Alina Ibragimova, Leila Josefowicz, Leonidas Kavakos, Igor Levit, Paul Lewis, Anne-Sophie Mutter, Stephen Osborne, Antonio Pappano, Vasily Petrenko, Maurizio Pollini, Anoushka Shankar, Sean Shibe, Stuart Skelton, Robin Ticciati, Michael Tilson Thomas, Daniil Trifonov, Mitsuko Uchida, Alisa Weilerstein, Jörg Widmann, John Wilson** and many, many more. Innovation stands at the heart of the work of Southbank Centre's Resident and Associate Orchestras, and ensembles that are redefining classical music, on and off the concert platform, including Southbank Centre Associate, **Chineke! Orchestra**, and the **British Paraorchestra**.

AUDIENCES

Southbank Centre is committed to nurturing and diversifying its audiences for classical music and, as part of this aim, will be launching ***Encounters*, an innovative new scheme to offer a free classical night out in the company of a leading musician** to audiences who have never previously heard a live classical concert. **Marin Alsop, Nicola Benedetti, Colin Currie, Stephen Hough, James Gilchrist, Roderick Williams, Sean Shibe, Susan Bickley, Chi-chi Nwanoku** and composers **Nico Muhly, Mark Simpson** and **Mark-Anthony Turnage**, all of whom feature in Southbank Centre's 2019/20 classical

season, will lead a series of musical encounters, each sharing musical insights and passion for their art by simply bringing a small group of people new to live classical music to a Southbank Centre concert. In a commitment to making the scheme open to as many as possible, Southbank Centre will also provide **hundreds of free tickets to Encounters participants** to return for a second taste of classical music during the 2019/20 classical season. They will be invited to bring a concert newcomer with them, who in turn will then be able to extend a further invitation to a friend or colleague new to classical music. Southbank Centre will be working with charities and local community groups, including the **Irene Taylor Trust, Streetwise Opera** and **Coin Street Community Builders**, as well as local employers, to invite people to participate in *Encounters*. Priority will be given to those for whom opportunities such as *Encounters* are especially hard to come by including ex-offenders, young people who are not in education, employment or training, people who have experienced homelessness, isolated older people and community groups, as well as those who may work on or near the South Bank but have yet to experience live classical music.

Pianist Stephen Hough comments: *“Classical music concerts so often seem like a closed door (or several) to those who have never attended one. A stuffy private club: elitist, pompous and inaccessible. ‘Encounters’ is a brilliant, simple idea to destroy this perception and to fling those doors open. Classical music - with its passion, its emotion, its stimulation, its rich fascination - belongs to all of us and I’m delighted to be a part of this exciting new way of introducing people for the first time to its allure.”*

Conductor Marin Alsop says: *“This is a great idea. I always enjoy going to concerts and as a musician, I’m very interested to hear what those new to classical concert going make of the experience; it’s easy to make assumptions on both sides and I think a few myths might get debunked along the way. Let’s hope so.”*

Encounters underlines Southbank Centre’s mission to widen access to classical music and to creating a classical concert experience fit for 21st century audiences of all ages and people of all backgrounds. With **50,000 seats available for £15 or under, including many free events**, the 2019/20 season provides many different ways to experience live classical music. From international mass participation events (**Marin Alsop** leads a cast of 400 in a performance of Beethoven’s Symphony No.9), to invigorating and illuminating short concerts (**BBC Radio 3’s Unclassified Live**, part of **Contemporary Edit**, a new way to navigate Southbank Centre’s numerous new music events), and changes to concert format, timing and etiquette, such as **Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment’s** ‘drinks-in’ policy and **Aurora’s** ‘Orchestral Theatre’ concerts. A comprehensive programme of family concerts, hands-on workshops for all ages (even babies), free foyer concerts and regular onstage introductions to music by conductors, musicians and composers also add to the mix. Southbank Centre’s commitment to growing audiences is reflected across all of these distinctive initiatives.

SUPPORTING CREATIVITY

Leading the field in addressing important issues facing music today, Southbank Centre is spearheading debate about opportunity and music: influential **Women in Music Breakfasts** seek to effect change, welcoming international guest speakers to share their experiences within the music industry. Southbank Centre also provides crucial opportunities for the development of young musicians, providing a home to resident community groups such as award-winning jazz development organisation **Tomorrow's Warriors**, **Kinetica Bloco** and **Streetwise Opera**. Its ongoing **Composers' Collective** series brings emerging composing talent face-to-face with some of the world's most distinguished composers at free events.

With the very finest music making at its heart, in some of the world's most celebrated concert halls, Southbank Centre's 2019/20 classical season highlights include:

Beethoven 250

A year-long celebration of the 250th Anniversary of Beethoven's birth throughout 2020. January – June highlights include:

- **Marin Alsop** leads Southbank Centre Associate the **National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain** and 400 performers in *Beyond Beethoven Nine* as part of a major international mass participation exploration of Beethoven's Symphony No.9
- Southbank Centre Artist-in-Residence **Pierre-Laurent Aimard** curates *Beethoven and the Avant-Garde*, a series about Beethoven and his influence on composers featuring recitals and appearances from Southbank Centre Associate **Aurora Orchestra** and Cologne's **Gürzenich Orchestra** in a programme which mixes Beethoven with works by 20th and 21st century composers
- **London Philharmonic Orchestra's** year-long *2020 Vision* series casts fresh light on the music of Beethoven and the composers who came exactly 100 and 200 years after him including a complete cycle of Beethoven Symphonies with conductors including **Vladimir Jurowski**, **Edward Gardner** and **Vasily Petrenko** that will be completed across the calendar year
- **Philharmonia Orchestra**, conducted by **Esa-Pekka Salonen**, reconstructs Beethoven's famous marathon 1808 benefit concert at the Theater an der Wein, which saw the first performances of Beethoven's 5th and 6th Symphonies.
- Two takes on Beethoven's 'Eroica' Symphony: **Nicholas Collon** conducts **Aurora Orchestra** in a performance from memory; **Sir Roger Norrington** conducts period instrument ensemble **Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment** in Beethoven's 3rd and 4th Symphonies
- International soloists and chamber musicians including **Anne-Sophie Mutter**, **Vilde Frang** and **Lawrence Power** pay tribute to Beethoven

Hayward x Music: Bridget Riley

Musicians respond to a major Bridget Riley retrospective at Hayward Gallery

- **Steve Reich's** *Drumming* returns to the scene of its 1972 European premiere in a Hayward Gallery performance by the **Colin Currie Group**
- Award-winning young guitarist **Sean Shibe** spans 400 years of music, from lute to electric guitar in a Hayward Gallery concert performing amongst the exhibition

- **London Sinfonietta** gives the world premiere of a new Bridget Riley-inspired work by **Georg Friedrich Haas**
- **Deep[∞]Minimalism 2.0** - Cellist **Oliver Coates** programmes a two-day exploration of deep listening featuring minimalist experimental acoustic and electronic music including works by **Eliane Radigue**
- **London Contemporary Orchestra** performs **Michael Gordon's** *Rushes* for seven bassoons

Ravi Shankar centenary

2020 season celebrating the seminal musician's music and legacy:

- Sitarist and composer **Anoushka Shankar**, Ravi Shankar's daughter, announced as a Southbank Centre Associate Artist
- **London Philharmonic Orchestra** performs Ravi Shankar's final work, the opera *Sukanya*, as part of an opening weekend of concerts and participatory music making in January 2020 as well as a performance of Shankar's *Symphony* later in the year.
- Royal Festival Hall exhibition to feature previously unseen material from the Shankar family's personal collection
- Plus more programming to be announced, including a concert with friends and family on centenary of Ravi Shankar's birth

Hyperfutures - the complete Varèse

- **Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla** conducts the **City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra** and **Birmingham Contemporary Music Group** in the complete works of visionary 20th century composer Edgard Varèse, performed over one weekend

International Orchestras

- **Michael Tilson Thomas** and the **San Francisco Symphony Orchestra** double-bill celebrates Tilson Thomas' 75th birthday and his 25th and final season as the orchestra's Music Director
- **Edward Gardner** conducts the **Bergen Philharmonic and Choir** and an all-star cast in Britten's *Peter Grimes* with **Stuart Skelton** in the title role
- **Mitsuko Uchida** and the **Mahler Chamber Orchestra** continue their acclaimed Southbank Centre series exploring Mozart piano concertos
- Further highlights include: **NHK Symphony Orchestra Tokyo**, conducted by **Paavo Järvi** and making its Southbank Centre debut, Cologne's **Gürzenich Orchestra** conducted by **François-Xavier Roth**

Contemporary Edit

New for 2019/20, [*Contemporary Edit*](#) offers a curated journey through new music at Southbank Centre, making surprising connections and offering new ways of exploring the wealth of new music on offer. With more than **30** commissions and premieres across the season, further new music highlights include:

- **Music Theatre Wales** and **London Sinfonietta** in the world premiere of **Philip Venables'** *Denis & Katya*, a new music theatre work written and directed by **Ted Huffman**, based on the true story of two 15-year-old Russian runaways who, whilst besieged by police, live streamed their final hours. (13 & 14 Mar 2020)

- **Elizabeth Alker** presents and **André de Ridder** conducts **BBC Radio 3's *Unclassified Live***, a new series of QEH concerts to be broadcast as part of BBC Radio 3's eclectic late night, new music programme which explores a new generation of classical composers who take influence from across the musical spectrum. (Southbank Centre in partnership with **BBC Radio 3**, **BBC Concert Orchestra** and **Southbank Sinfonia**). The series opens with Southbank Sinfonia performing music by **Anna Meredith** and a world premiere by **Nicole Lizée** (29 Sep 2019)
- **Esa-Pekka Salonen** conducts the world premiere of a horn concerto by **Mark-Anthony Turnage**, commissioned by the Philharmonia to mark the start of its **75th anniversary year** (16 Jan 2020); **George Benjamin** conducts the orchestra in a concert celebrating his 60th birthday (5 Mar 2020)
- **Philharmonia Orchestra's *Music of Today*** series showcases new work by **Gérard Pesson**, **Aribert Reimann**, **Augusta Read Thomas** and shines a spotlight on percussionist **Colin Currie**
- **London Philharmonic Orchestra** gives the European premiere of a new organ concerto by **Nico Muhly**, commissioned by Southbank Centre (29 Apr 2020) and the UK premiere of a new piano concerto by **Thomas Adès** (23 Oct 2019)
- **Michael Tilson Thomas** conducts the **San Francisco Symphony Orchestra** in the European premiere of a new orchestral work by **John Adams** (21 Mar 2020)
- **London Sinfonietta** presents new commissions from **Georg Friedrich Haas** (5 Dec 2019) **Edward Nesbit** (15 Oct 2019) and **Marius Neset** (21 Nov 2019, as part of the EFG London Jazz Festival)
- Southbank Centre Associate **BBC Concert Orchestra** focuses on new music, from Bang on a Can All-Stars' performance of **Julia Wolfe's *Flower Power*** (28 Feb 2020) to the European premiere of **Guy Barker and Kurt-Elling's** noir-inspired, jazz audio drama *The Big Blind* (31 Jan 2020), as well as an innovative concert featuring video game music
- The season also includes premieres from **Sally Beamish**, **Luke Bedford**, **Roxanna Panufnik** and **Jörg Widmann**

Further Resident Orchestra highlights

- **Philharmonia Orchestra** celebrates its 75th anniversary; **Esa-Pekka Salonen** continues major series, ***Weimar Berlin: Bittersweet Metropolis***. They will also focus on Mahler, including three song cycles: *Humoresken* (songs from *Des Knaben Wunderhorn*), *Das Lied von der Erde* and *Das klagende Lied*
- **London Philharmonic Orchestra** explores some seminal works of the first two decades of our century in **2020 Vision** and continues its celebration of landmark works inspired by the British Isles, ***Isle of Noises*** series; Vladimir Jurowski continues two cycles with Wagner's *Siegfried* and Mahler symphonies
- **London Sinfonietta's *Sound Across a Century***, running in parallel to LPO's *2020 Vision*, explores the influence of the 20th century's fast-changing culture on 21st century composition, from late romanticism to spectralism
- **Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment** explores Faustian pacts and German Romantic music, puts the spotlight on the lesser-known Michael Haydn and journeys through three hundred years of English music

Further highlights

- Associate Orchestra **Chineke!** performs three concerts focused on the music of Samuel Coleridge-Taylor
- **Royal Philharmonic Orchestra** in RFH concerts conducted by **Thierry Fischer, Robert Trevino, Mark Wigglesworth, Sir Andrew Davis** and Music Director designate **Vasily Petrenko**
- **City of London Sinfonia** reflecting on 1920s Paris and minimalist music
- **Southbank Sinfonia** in family and contemporary concerts
- **British Paraorchestra**, the world's only large-scale ensemble for professional disabled musicians, exploring minimalism in collaboration with its two partner ensembles, **The Army of Generals** and **Charles Hazlewood's All Star Collective** including **Will Gregory** (Goldfrapp) and **Adrian Utley** (Portishead) (28 Sep 2019)

Gillian Moore CBE, Director of Music at Southbank Centre comments:

'At Southbank Centre we're passionately committed to creating the most exciting possible encounters between great music and people. From our Resident and Associate Orchestras who are innovators and global ambassadors for music in London to a fabulous array of international artists and over 30 premieres, audiences can expect magnificent music in Southbank Centre's three world class concert halls throughout the 2019/20 season. The season sees a welcome return to concerts in the Hayward Gallery, and is marked by fresh approaches to concert giving and going, including our new Encounters project, which offer audiences and artists alike exceptional artistic experiences.'

Beethoven, Varèse and Ravi Shankar, all celebrated in Southbank Centre series, thought unimagined thoughts about music and its place in the world. In celebrating their legacy, in supporting artists, creating new music today and in creating a welcome for everybody from passionate connoisseurs to absolute newcomers, we hope to ensure that we can all experience the sense of connection to ideas, to the world and to each other that music offers us.'

Full programme detail below.

Southbank Centre's 2019/20 classical music season goes on sale to Southbank Centre Members at 10am on Monday 25 February 2019 and then on sale to the general public at 10am on Wednesday 27 February 2019.

For more information or to buy tickets please visit the Southbank Centre website [HERE](#).

Programme in Detail

BEETHOVEN 250: A year long celebration of Beethoven from January 2020

Southbank Centre welcomes an outstanding line up of musicians, including **Vladimir Jurowski, Esa-Pekka Salonen, Vasily Petrenko, Edward Gardner, Anne-Sophie Mutter, Vilde Frang** and

Pierre-Laurent Aimard to mark the 250th anniversary of Beethoven's birth. Concerts across all three halls include Beethoven rarities and historic recreations alongside famous symphonic works, outstanding chamber concerts as well as contemporary reflections and reinterpretations of Beethoven's music.

Following the huge success of its mass participation performance of Bernstein's *Mass* in 2018, Southbank Centre is once again partnering with Associate Artist, conductor **Marin Alsop** in a new project centred on Beethoven's 9th Symphony, presented in association with New York's Carnegie Hall. Together with Associate Orchestra **National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain** and over 200 singers and musicians drawn from across London and beyond, they join forces for *Beyond Beethoven 9*, the UK leg of a worldwide project, *All together: A Global ode to Joy*, which will see Alsop conduct nine performances of Beethoven's choral symphony across the globe in 2020; all 9 partners worldwide will create their own translation and re-imagine the music in their own way.

In the UK iteration, Alsop conducts Southbank Centre Associate Orchestra, NYOGB and a massed choir (over 400 performers in all) taking audiences through a reimagined journey of Beethoven's masterwork. The symphony's four movements are interwoven with four new commissions, each using Beethoven's approach of quoting, and adapting his original musical material. The newly re-written English version of Beethoven's unifying text has been created with young people's voices and ideas as part of a community writing project. *All together's* global journey begins in December 2019 in São Paulo, before journeying to London's Southbank Centre on 16 & 18 April 2020, Vienna, Baltimore, New Zealand, Sydney, Vienna, KwaZulu Natal, Johannesburg, ending in December 2020 at Carnegie Hall, New York City.

Beethoven 250 lights the touch paper for concerts that explore Beethoven's legacy. **London Philharmonic Orchestra's** new series **2020 Vision** sets out not only to define the sound of the first two decades of our century, but also to cast fresh light on the music of Beethoven and the composers who came exactly 100 and 200 years after him. Running in parallel, **London Sinfonietta's** **Sound across a Century** explores the influence of the 20th century's fast-changing culture on 21st century composition, from impressionism and late romanticism to spectralism. An immersive day of performances, talks and free events by **Philharmonia Orchestra** includes a reconstruction of Beethoven's extraordinary four-hour 'Akademie' concert of 1808, conducted by **Esa-Pekka Salonen**. Cologne's **Gürzenich Orchestra** and soloist **Pierre-Laurent Aimard**, conducted by **François-Xavier Roth**, intersperse Beethoven's music with works by Helmut Lachenmann, John Cage and Bernd Alois Zimmermann and a new commission by **Isabel Mundry** (21 Feb 2020). This concert is part of pianist **Aimard's** year-long *Beethoven and the Avant Garde* series, exploring Beethoven and his influence on later composers which also sees Aimard in recital and a concert with **Aurora Orchestra** (16 May 2020), with further concerts in Autumn 2020 to be announced. **Sir Roger Norrington** conducts **Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment** in a period performance of Beethoven's 4th and 5th Symphonies. **Chineke!** performs Beethoven's *Triple Concerto* with **Stewart Goodyear** (piano) and two young winners of the recent Sphinx competition in the USA: **Adé Williams** (violin) and **Sterling Elliot** (cello) (22 May 2020). **Anne-Sophie Mutter** and **Principal players from the LPO**, the **Hagen Quartet** and violinist **Vilde Frang**, cellist **Nicolas Alstaedt** and viola player **Lawrence Power** are amongst the outstanding international chamber and solo artists to celebrate *Beethoven 250* at Southbank Centre. Further announcements about *Beethoven 250's* Autumn 2020 concerts will be announced next year.

HAYWARD x MUSIC: BRIDGET RILEY: November 2019 – January 2020

Steve Reich's mesmerising *Drumming* received its European premiere at the Hayward Gallery on 4 February 1972 in a performance by musicians including Michael Nyman, Gavin Bryars and Cornelius Cardew. Nearly half a century later, the work returns to the gallery, performed by the **Colin Currie**

Group (6 & 7 Dec 2019) as part of a series of concerts to be staged alongside a major retrospective exhibition devoted to the work of celebrated British artist **Bridget Riley** (23 October 2019 – 26 January 2020). Guitarist **Sean Shibe**, winner of 2018 Royal Philharmonic Society Music Award for Young Artists paints a broad musical canvas in a concert in the exhibition that includes lute works by 17th century Scottish composer Lady Margaret Wemyss, Julia Wolfe's *LAD* for nine bagpipes arranged for electric guitar, and pieces by David Fennessy and Steve Reich (10 January 2020).

London Sinfonietta premieres their commission from **Georg Friedrich Haas** which responds to Riley's work (5 Dec 2019, QEH); whilst cellist **Oliver Coates** programmes *Deep Minimalism 2.0*, a two-day exploration of quiet music, dark ambient, minimalist experimental acoustic and electronic music running in counterpoint to the work of Bridget Riley. *Deep Minimalism 2.0* includes music by Eliane Radigue, Morton Feldman and John Luther Adams alongside practitioners who operate on the fault-line between folk and DIY methods who explore the properties of what composer Pauline Oliveros termed 'deep listening' and draws upon the success of Southbank Centre's 2016 festival *Deep Minimalism* (2 & 3 Nov 2019). **London Contemporary Orchestra** completes the *Hayward x Music* Bridget Riley line up (17 Jan 2020).

RAVI SHANKAR CENTENARY: from 15 January 2020

Few musicians can claim to have a truly global impact; but Ravi Shankar's influence was universal. Southbank Centre celebrates the music, life and radical voice of the Indian musician, composer and Sitar maestro in a series of concert and events in 2020 to mark the centenary of his birth.

Sitar player and composer **Anoushka Shankar**, Ravi Shankar's daughter, takes a central role in celebrations as a new Southbank Centre Associate Artist. Her dynamic and spiritual musicality has garnered several prestigious accolades, including six Grammy Award nominations, recognition as the youngest – and first female – recipient of a British House of Commons Shield, credit as an Asian Hero by TIME Magazine, and a Songlines Best Artist Award. Most recently, she became one of the first five female composers to have been added to the UK A-level music syllabus. **Anoushka Shankar** will be joined by family and friends in a special evening on the actual anniversary of Ravi Shankar's birth (7 Apr 2020). She begins her role as an Associate Artist this April with a live performance of her score to epic 1920's silent film *Shiraz: A Romance of India* this Spring (9 Apr 2019).

Anoushka Shankar comments: *'I am hugely honoured to have been asked to be an Associate Artist at Southbank Centre. Over the years I have marked many important artistic milestones as a performer at this majestic venue, and had memorable experiences as an audience member, often seeing and hearing things for the first time. And as a Londoner, it holds a special place in my heart.'*

During my time as an Associate Artist, I'm looking forward to experimenting and growing even further as a musician in front of Southbank Centre's varied and open-minded audiences and to be performing as part of celebrations for my father Ravi Shankar's centenary. It's my hope that people will come on a journey with me that challenges preconceptions about what Indian music is, how and in what context a sitar can be played, how to bring traditions into the present moment, and how to simultaneously respect and push boundaries between genres and cultures.'

In 2010 **London Philharmonic Orchestra** gave the world premiere of Ravi Shankar's *Symphony* featuring Anoushka Shankar. As part of *Ravi Shankar* centenary celebrations they reunite for another performance of the work (22 Apr 2020). The LPO and dancers also perform Ravi Shankar's final work, his only opera *Sukanya*, inspired by his wife and stories from the Indian epics; the LPO, Curve Leicester and the Royal Opera House presented the world premiere of *Sukanya* in 2017, including the opera's London premiere at Southbank Centre. With libretto by **Amit Chaudhuri**, *Sukanya*, featuring **Susannah Hurrell** in the title role, is conducted by **David Murphy**, who worked closely with Ravi Shankar and completed the opera with the help of Anoushka Shankar. Direction is by **Suba Das** with

Gauri Diwakar as choreographer (15 Jan 2020). *Sukanya* is part of a weekend of events (15 – 17 Jan 2020) to mark the start of centenary celebrations and the opening of a Royal Festival Hall exhibition featuring previously unseen material from the Shankar family's personal collection and that of his biographer Oliver Craske. Craske's biography *Indian Sun: The Life and Music of Ravi Shankar* will be published by Faber to coincide with the celebrations. The full programme of events for Southbank Centre's Ravi Shankar centenary celebrations will be announced later this year.

INTERNATIONAL ORCHESTRAS

Edward Gardner conducts **Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra and Choir** in a performance of Britten's *Peter Grimes*. **Stuart Skelton** in the title role leads an all-star cast including **Erin Wall, Roderick Williams, Susan Bickley, Catherine Wyn-Rogers, Marcus Farnsworth, Robert Murray, James Gilchrist** and **Neal Davies** (30 Nov 2019, RFH). **Michael Tilson Thomas**, in his final year as Music Director of the **San Francisco Symphony Orchestra** conducts a new orchestral work by John Adams and Mahler's Symphony No.6 (21 Mar 2020, RFH) and is joined by **Daniil Trifonov** for Rachmaninov's Piano Concerto No.4, in a programme that also includes Tilson Thomas' own *Lope*, and a performance of Stravinsky's 1910 complete ballet score for *The Firebird* (22 Mar 2020, RFH). In the third year of its ongoing series of Southbank Centre concerts, **Mitsuko Uchida and the Mahler Chamber Orchestra** play Mozart's Piano Concertos No.17 in G and No.22 in E flat, alongside an arrangement of **Jörg Widmann's** second *String Quartet* (31 Jan 2020, RFH). **NHK Symphony Orchestra Tokyo** returns to Southbank Centre under **Paavo Järvi** with a concert that includes **Sol Gabetta** in Schumann's Cello Concerto, Takemitsu's *How slow the wind* and Rachmaninov's Symphony No. 2 (24 Feb 2020, RFH). **Gürzenich Orchestra** includes the UK premiere of German composer **Isabel Mundry's** *Beethoven Reflections* (21 Feb 2020, RFH).

HYPERFUTURES: THE COMPLETE VARÈSE: 9 & 10 May 2020

Following in the footsteps of explorations of musical revolutionaries Ligeti (2018) and Stockhausen (coming up this Spring), in 2020 Southbank Centre turns the spotlight on **Edgard Varèse** with *Hyperfutures: The Complete Varèse*, a weekend devoted to his music.

Varèse's entire existing musical output runs to little more than three hours of music. Described by the writer Henry Miller as the '*stratospheric colossus of sound*', Varèse's explorations in electronics and his belief that music was '*organised sound*' resulted in a pioneering body of work that has proved hugely influential to composers across a wide range of genres, from Morton Feldman to Frank Zappa. **City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra** Music Director **Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla** conducts the **CBSO** and **Birmingham Contemporary Music Group** in two concerts that span forty years of Varèse's output, from the 1920s until his death in New York in 1965. *Dreamscapes* (9 May 2020, Royal Festival Hall) explores Varèse's orchestral output, including *Arcana* for orchestra, *Nocturnal*, *Offrandes*, *Amerique* for orchestra and two works completed by Varèse protégé Chou Wen-chung, *Dance for Burgess* and *Tuning Up*. *Microscosms* (10 May 2020, Queen Elizabeth Hall), focuses on pieces for chamber orchestra and for solo instruments, including the seminal flute work, *Density 21.5*, *Poème électronique*, an electronic work written for the Philips Pavilion at the 1958 Brussels' World Fair and *Deserts*, which features a two-track tape alongside more conventional instrumentation. *Hyperfutures* is part of a summer of sound that will resonate across Southbank Centre in 2020 (further details to follow in Autumn 2019).

RESIDENT ORCHESTRAS

LONDON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

London Philharmonic Orchestra launches **2020 Vision** which offers the chance to hear major works written since 2000 that have defined the 21st century across the whole of 2020. Each piece, is

combined with works written exactly 100 and 200 years earlier, not only celebrating the large-scale music of our time, but also throwing new light on the music of Beethoven as well as the composers who came exactly one and two centuries after him.

2020 Vision features works by such composers as Thomas Adès, John Corigliano, Brett Dean, Philip Glass, Peter Eötvös, Anders Hillborg, Oliver Knussen, Thomas Larcher, Magnus Lindberg, Krzysztof Penderecki, Kaija Saariaho and Jörg Widmann. The masterpieces from 1800 – 20 are dominated by Beethoven - but also include works by contemporaries such as Méhul, Schubert and Spohr, while the 1900 – 20 period is epitomised by by such composers as Nielsen, Scriabin, Sibelius, Rachmaninoff and Vaughan Williams.

Beethoven 250 celebrations also include a complete Beethoven symphony cycle with, among others, **Vladimir Jurowski**, **Vasily Petrenko** and **Edward Gardner**, and Jurowski conducting a concert of Beethoven rarities, including *Cantata for Emperor Joseph II* and *Ah! Perfido* with soprano **Lise Davidsen**. **Osmo Vänskä** conducts Beethoven's fourth Piano Concerto with pianist **Jeremy Denk**, while **Robin Ticciati** leads a starry Triple Concerto, with **Anne-Sophie Mutter**, **Khatia Buniatishvili** and **Pablo Ferrández**.

Isle of Noises, the LPO series celebrating landmark works inspired by the British Isles, dominates much of the first half of the new season. Highlights include a centenary performance of Elgar's *Cello Concerto*, conducted by **Susanna Mälkki** with **Sheku Kenneh-Mason** making his LPO debut, and Elgar's *The Apostles*, with an all-star cast conducted by **Mark Elder**. There are also rare performances of Alwyn's *Lyra Angelica*, with harpist **Xavier de Maistre**, and Foulds' monumental *Dynamic Triptych*, for which Jurowski is joined by pianist **Peter Donohoe**.

Jurowski, as Principal Conductor and Artistic Advisor, conducts 11 concerts across the season, including many in the orchestra's two major series, ongoing cycles with Wagner's opera *Siegfried* and Mahler Symphonies Nos. 2, 5 and 9 and an evening of Strauss with **Diana Damrau**. The outstanding line-up of conductors also includes **Edward Gardner** conducting Verdi's *Requiem* and Janacek's *Glagolitic Mass*, **Osmo Vänskä** conducting Rautavaara and Penderecki and **Thomas Adès**, conducting the UK premiere of his Piano Concerto with soloist **Kirill Gerstein**. **Antonio Pappano** returns with a concert featuring **Igor Levit** playing Busoni's immense Piano Concerto and there are notable conducting debuts for **Klaus Mäkelä**, and **Karen Kamensek**.

READ THE FULL LONDON PHILHARMONIC RELEASE [HERE](#)

PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA

The **Philharmonia Orchestra** and Principal Conductor & Artistic Advisor **Esa-Pekka Salonen** announce a Southbank Centre 2019/20 season with a vibrant programme spanning 250 years of music. Highlights include:

- **Philharmonia at 75**, a year-long festival in 2020 marking three-quarters of a century of brilliant live music-making, definitive recordings, technological innovation, community-led outreach and artistic adventure. The opening weekend of the series, conducted by Salonen, (16 & 19 Jan 2020) features: a programme centred on **1945**, the year the Philharmonia was founded, and the world premiere of a horn concerto by **Mark-Anthony Turnage**, commissioned by the Philharmonia, in a programme inspired by the famous French horn players linked to the Orchestra, including Dennis Brain, Richard Watkins (soloist on this occasion) and Esa-Pekka Salonen himself.
- The culmination of **Weimar Berlin: Bittersweet Metropolis**, a major series exploring the music, culture and politics of Germany during the Weimar Republic. Salonen conducts a Cabaret programme directed by **Gerard McBurney** (QEH, 23 Sep 2019) alongside two concerts featuring violinist **Christian Tetzlaff**. (26 & 29 Sep 2019)

- An immersive day of performances, talks and free events marking 250th anniversary of Beethoven's birth (15 Mar 2020) including a reconstruction of Beethoven's extraordinary four-hour 'Akademie' concert of 1808, conducted by Esa-Pekka Salonen.
- A Gustav Mahler focus (Feb – Jun 2020), features Principal Guest Conductor **Jakub Hrůša** conducting the 'Resurrection' Symphony; **Paavo Järvi** conducting the Fifth Symphony and three song cycles: *Humoresken* (songs from *Des Knaben Wunderhorn*, *Das Lied von der Erde* and *Das klagende Lied*).
- Principal Guest Conductor **Santtu-Matias Rouvali** focuses on Russian music, conducting excerpts from *Swan Lake*, Prokofiev's Symphony No. 5 and two Rachmaninov piano concertos.
- Portuguese conductor **Joana Carneiro** makes her Philharmonia debut with a distinctive programme of music by Bernstein, Barber, Copland and Steven Stucky, and **Xian Zhang** and **Elim Chan** return to conduct subscription concerts. Outstanding soloists across the season include pianists **Tamara Stefanovich** and **Zhang Zou**; violinists **Leonidas Kavakos**, **Nemanja Radulovic** and **Christian Tetzlaff**; cellists **Sol Gabetta** and **Steven Isserlis**; and singers **Lise Davidsen**, **Dame Sarah Connolly**, **Allan Clayton** and **Bejun Mehta**.
- Further new music highlights in 2019/20 include a concert celebrating **George Benjamin's 60th birthday** with the composer conducting his key works *Dream of the Song* and *Duet for Piano Orchestra* (soloists **Bejun Mehta** and **Pierre-Laurent Aimard** respectively). The Philharmonia's small ensemble series *Music of Today*, curated by **Unsup Chin** (whose successful tenure as Artistic Director concludes at the end of the season) presents a diverse programme, including a focus on American composer **Augusta Read Thomas**.

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LONDON SINFONIETTA

London Sinfonietta's 2019/20 season at Southbank Centre includes major new commissions and collaborations; it journeys from opera to jazz, reflects on the influence of the music of the past century on the music of today, and gets young people composing and performing new music in the Royal Festival Hall. Highlights include:

- A major new London Sinfonietta commission from Austrian composer **Georg Friedrich Haas** (in association with Southbank Centre) written in response to the work of celebrated British artist **Bridget Riley**. **Brad Lubman** conducts (5 Dec 2019). Other commissions in the season include a new viola concertante work by **Edward Nesbit**, one of the ensembles' Writing the Future composers, programmed alongside another recent London Sinfonietta commission, **Sir Harrison Birtwistle's Five Lessons in a Frame** (15 Oct 2019).
- In the second year of a new association with opera company, **Music Theatre Wales**, London Sinfonietta performs in the UK premiere of *Denis & Katya*, a new music theatre work by composer **Philip Venables** and writer/director **Ted Huffman**. Based on the true story of the untimely death of two Russian teenagers, this new work follows in the footsteps of the recent acclaimed Music Theatre Wales/National Dance Company of Wales production of Pascal Dusapin's *Passion* for which the London Sinfonietta performed (13 & 14 Mar 2020).
- London Sinfonietta reunites with Norwegian jazz saxophonist and composer **Marius Neset** for the UK premiere of *Viaduct*, conducted by **Geoffrey Paterson** (21 Nov 2019). The work was premiered at Norway's Kongsberg Jazz Festival 2018; a recording will be released in 2019. *Viaduct* follows London Sinfonietta's collaboration on Neset's award-winning 2016 album *Snowmelt*.
- The London Sinfonietta's *Sound across a Century* explores the influence of the 20th century's fast-changing culture on 21st century composition, from late romanticism to spectralism. Talks and films will contextualise the music and times. London Sinfonietta co-founder **David Atherton** returns to conduct the second concert (24 Mar 2020). The series concludes in Autumn 2020.
- Continuing its ongoing learning project exploring the basics of how to compose, perform and listen to new music in the classroom, London Sinfonietta's *Sound Out 2020* concert is the culmination of a

season of collaborations with schools and music hubs (Mar 2020). School groups will experience the wonder of music-making in the Royal Festival Hall in a concert performed and composed by their peers and London Sinfonietta musicians.

READ THE FULL LONDON SINFONIETTA PRESS RELEASE [HERE](#)

ORCHESTRA OF THE AGE OF ENLIGHTENMENT

“This season we focus on ‘Salvation and Damnation’ - part three of ‘Six Chapters of Enlightenment’ - with eight concerts exploring ideas which have resonated down the ages about faith, doubt and legacy. How will I be judged? How do we come to terms with mortality and will an artist’s work survive the test of time?” **Crispin Woodhead, Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment (OAE) Chief Executive and co-curator**

Thomas Mann’s novel *Dr Faustus*, about a composer’s Faustian Pact for the gift of genius and artistic legacy, is explored through music connected to the book’s narrative, an extraordinary tour of key moments in German Romanticism. The OAE conducted by **Geoffrey Paterson** performs works including Wagner’s Prelude to Act 3 *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* and Mahler: *Kindertotenlieder*, with special arrangements; and Schoenberg’s revolutionary Chamber Symphony No.1 (25 Mar 2020, QEH).

Forgotten composer Michael Haydn, as famous in his day as his older brother, is championed by the world-renowned violinist **Alina Ibragimova**, who performs his Violin Concerto in A major (12 May 2020, QEH).

The Orchestra welcomes back **Masaaki Suzuki** following his critically acclaimed performances in 2016, conducting Mendelsohn’s *Elijah* (3 Oct 2019, RFH), whilst pianist **Stephen Hough** and Principal Artist **Sir Mark Elder** join the OAE in a concert featuring Liszt and Wagner, the bad boys of 19th century music (26 Jun 2020, RFH). **Ian Bostridge** and the OAE travel through three hundred years of English composition, from Purcell and Blow to Britten’s *Serenade*, with its sense of coming to terms with mortality (26 Apr 2020, QEH). Other outstanding artists include Emeritus Conductor **Sir Roger Norrington** marking Beethoven’s 250th anniversary (28 Jan 2020, QEH) and Principal Artist **Iván Fischer** conducting Mozart’s late symphonies (7 Feb 2020, RFH).

The OAE brings a flavour of the warmth and informality of playing down the pub at its *The Night Shift* series into the concert hall. Players and internationally renowned conductors introduce themselves and the music from the stage, and there’s a new drinks-in policy.

READ THE FULL OAE PRESS RELEASE [HERE](#)

ASSOCIATE ORCHESTRAS

Continuing its *Orchestral Theatre* series, **Aurora Orchestra** welcomes pianist **Pierre-Laurent Aimard** for a collaboration as part of his *Beethoven and the Avant-Garde* project. ‘Fallen Hero’ pairs Beethoven’s Fourth Piano Concerto and a memorised performance of the ‘Eroica’ symphony with Schoenberg’s *Ode to Napoleon*, performed with guest narrator **Samuel West**. Associate Orchestra since 2016, Aurora has staged a richly varied collection of Orchestral Theatre productions that span diverse musical genres and art forms. These orchestral adventures offer bold new ways to experience classical music, incorporating elements of spoken word, film, design, theatrical lighting and choreography.

The **BBC Concert Orchestra** continues to showcase its exceptional versatility with a diverse offer of innovative programming for all across nine concerts. To open the season, the BBC CO teams up with BBC Radio 3 presenter **Tom Service** to explore the multifaceted role of an orchestra in the 21st century (26 Sep 2019). Continuing its commitment to new music, the BBC CO presents the European premiere of Guy Barker and Kurt Elling's noir-inspired, jazz audio drama *The Big Blind*; re-imagined for orchestral setting, it features original compositions as well as lyrical adaptations of songs by Duke Ellington, Charles Mingus and Wayne Shorter (31 Jan 2020). Further new music highlights include the London premiere of Danny Elfman's concerto for violin and orchestra, *Eleven Eleven*, featuring **Sandy Cameron** (21 Apr 2020) and, in a collaboration with New York-based collective Bang on a Can All-Stars, the UK premiere of *Flower Power* - a new work from Pulitzer Prize-winning American composer and founding member of Bang on a Can, Julia Wolfe (28 Feb 2020). The first of two BBC Radio 3 world premiere commissions sees saxophonist **Trish Clowes** present Joe Cutler's new saxophone concerto (6 Dec 2019) whilst the second sees a new cello concerto by Misha Mullov-Abbado performed by **Matthew Barley** and the BBC CO in a concert featuring **Nu Civilisation Orchestra** and **StringTing** which makes its debut with the orchestra (23 Nov 2019). To round off the season, *Playing the Game* (6 May 2020) will include stand-out scores for video games past and present.

The **Chineke! Orchestra** makes three appearances over the season in the Queen Elizabeth Hall, where the Orchestra gave the hall's re-opening concert following refurbishment in April 2018. Continuing its practice of championing works by Black minority ethnic composers, Chineke! focuses on the music of Samuel Coleridge-Taylor (1875 – 1912). Encouraged by Elgar and his publisher, Jaeger, Coleridge-Taylor is best known for his cantata *Hiawatha's Wedding Feast*, but had a much wider output during his all-too-short life. Chineke! puts an important spotlight on these sparkling orchestral works in 2019/20 with performances of Coleridge-Taylor's *Violin Concerto* (7 Nov 2019), *Othello Suite* (23 Feb 2020) and *African Dance* (12 May 2020). Symphonies by Beethoven, Brahms and Dvorak also give Chineke! an opportunity to shine in some of the great classics, with conductors **Kevin John Edusei** and **Fawzi Haimor** and an array of leading soloists including violinists **Elena Urioste** and **Tai Murray**, and pianist **Stewart Goodyear**.

Beyond Beethoven 9 is the second mass participation collaboration between Southbank Centre and the **National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain**, which became an Associate Orchestra in the 2016/17 season.

CHAMBER MUSIC

Old meets new in Southbank Centre's 2019/20 *International Chamber Music Series*, which features some of the world's finest chamber musicians performing repertoire spanning 500 years. **Alisa Weilerstein and Trondheim Soloists** (who begin the series on 16 October 2019), **the Hagen Quartet**, the **Borodin Quartet**, and **Sheku Kanneh-Mason** and **Guy Johnson** with a new work by **Emma-Ruth Richards**, all make appearances. Following acclaimed performances as part of the re-opening weekend of the Queen Elizabeth Hall, **Benjamin Grosvenor, Kian Soltani and friends** return to Southbank Centre with Brahms and Strauss piano quartets; US-based **JACK Quartet** are joined by percussionist **Colin Currie** in music by Simon Holt, Steve Martland and a new work by **Andy Akiho**; the **Colin Currie Group** and guitarist **Sean Shibe** both play concerts in the Hayward Gallery.

50 Years in a day celebrates 50 years of music agency HarrisonParrott, with daytime chamber concerts and an evening orchestral concert. The stellar line up of artists taking part includes **Jess Gillam, Jörg Widmann, Vikingur Olafsson, Alice Sara Ott, Alban Gerhardt, Pekka Kuusisto, Patricia Kopatchinskaja, Barbara Hannigan, Andreas Scholl, Tamara Stefanovich, Tamar**

Halperin, Pierre-Laurent Aimard, with the **Philharmonia Orchestra** conducted by **Vladimir Ashkenazy** and **Elim Chan**. (6 Oct 2019).

PIANO RECITALS

2019/20 Classical Season features 16 recitals as part of Southbank Centre's *International Piano Series*. **Pierre-Laurent Aimard**, **Daniil Trifonov**, **Paul Lewis**, who concludes his RFH exploration of Beethoven, Haydn and Brahms, **Steven Osborne** playing Messiaen's *Vingt Regards sur l'enfant Jésus*, **Stephen Hough**, **Lise de La Salle**, **Maurizio Pollini**, **Alexei Volodin** and **Ingrid Fliter** are amongst the outstanding international artists returning to the UK's longest running dedicated piano series. Series debuts include **Saleem Ashkar**, **Clare Hammond**, **Roman Rabinovich** and **Noriko Kawai**, playing James Dillon's RPS Music Award winning, *The Book of Elements*. Russian pianist **Yulianna Avdeeva**, first prize winner in the 2010 Chopin competition opens the series (1 Oct 2019).

ORGAN RECITALS

Southbank Centre's *International Organ Series* puts the Royal Festival Hall's magnificent 103-stop Harrison and Harrison organ into the spotlight in a wide-ranging series of concerts in 2019/20, and gives the chance to go *Behind the Pipes*, with organ series curator **William McVicker**. **Richard Hills** performs a nostalgic programme of 'light' organ music by English composers including Sir Arthur Sullivan, Percy Whitlock and Quentin Maclean (24 Sep 2019). **Gerard Brooks** plays Charles-Marie Widor's complete *Fifth Symphony* (one of ten written by the French composer) (3 Feb 2020). **Carol Williams'** jazz-infused programme includes an arrangement of Dave Brubeck's *Take Five* (20 Apr 2020). **Thomas Trotter** takes on titanic masterworks, including Mendelssohn's Incidental music to *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, arrangements of music from Wagner's *Tannhauser* and *Die Valkyries*, and music by Max Reger (26 May 2020).

FAMILY CONCERTS

London Philharmonic Orchestra, **Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment**, **BBC Concert Orchestra**, **Southbank Sinfonia** and **National Children's Orchestra** all feature in a rich offering of music for young audiences throughout the season and as part of the hugely popular *Imagine Children's Festival* in February 2020. Participatory workshops also run throughout 2019/20, including Gamelan taster sessions and youth courses and *Gong Babies* and *Dragon Babies*, gamelan for babies, the under 5's and parents and carers.

#ENDS#

Southbank Centre's 2019/20 classical music season goes on sale to Southbank Centre Members at 10am on Monday 25 February 2019 and then on sale to the general public at 10am on Wednesday 27 February 2019.

For more information or to buy tickets please visit the Southbank Centre website [HERE](#) or call 020 3879 9555.

2019/20 Classical Season Event Listings [HERE](#)

Press Images available to download [HERE](#)

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NOTES TO EDITORS

About Southbank Centre

Southbank Centre is the UK's largest arts centre, occupying a 17 acre site that sits in the midst of London's most vibrant cultural quarter on the South Bank of the Thames. The site has an extraordinary creative and architectural history stretching back to the 1951 Festival of Britain. Southbank Centre is home to the Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Purcell Room and Hayward Gallery as well as the National Poetry Library and the Arts Council Collection. It's also home to four Resident Orchestras - the London Philharmonic Orchestra, Philharmonia Orchestra, London Sinfonietta and Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment - as well as four Associate Orchestras - Aurora Orchestra, BBC Concert Orchestra, Chineke! Orchestra and the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain. For further information please visit www.southbankcentre.co.uk